

TEA-21 Streamlining Pilot Proposal
AASHTO Standing Committee on the Environment

- Title:** TEA-21 Environmental Streamlining Process Development Through Interagency Collaboration.
- Proposers:** Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Maryland State Highway Administration, West Virginia Division of Highways, Delaware Department of Transportation and the Mid Atlantic Transportation and Environment Interagency Team
- Background:** On January 27, 1999, a TEA-21 Executive Summit was co-sponsored by EPA Region III, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration - Eastern Resource Center to explore cooperation among transportation and environmental agencies in the implementation of key TEA-21 principles including environmental initiatives and environmental streamlining. Executives of all the federal and state transportation and environmental agencies were present. Representatives from EPA and FHWA Headquarters Offices and the US DOT Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy were in attendance. Commitment to work together cooperatively on a number of issues was received, and the development of a Cooperative Agreement followed the meeting. All representatives except the Virginia delegation agreed to sign the Cooperative Agreement.
- Pilot Purpose:** The purpose of our pilot is to demonstrate that by using a collaborative and cooperative process, involving all the stakeholders, an implementable process can be developed which will expedite and streamline environmental reviews, save time and money, and which will protect and enhance the environment.
- Using the Mid Atlantic Transportation and Environment Interagency Team, we will develop a streamlined process using a cooperative and collaborative decision making process. The team is currently composed of federal and state transportation and environmental agencies. We will be adding new partners to the group including, the State Historic Preservation Officers, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and possibly a representative from the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Other partners will be added as necessary to fully integrate and streamline the environmental regulations into the transportation planning and project development processes.
- In addition to reviewing agency regulations and time frames for review, the Interagency Team will investigate mechanisms for agency involvement

in the streamlined process including; funding mechanisms, agency burden sharing, certification, and other appropriate mechanisms. The Team will build on the successful Integrated NEPA/404 process but modifications will be made as necessary to incorporate all stakeholder needs and viewpoints.

Measures of Success: As a part of our pilot proposal, the Team will develop measures to evaluate the success of our streamlined process. The revised process can be applied to a number of projects to determine the success of the process revisions. Other evaluation measures will include the degree of agency participation and the level of cooperation among the agencies.

Time Frame: The Team has initiated efforts to improve the Integrated NEPA/404 Process. We anticipate with the addition of new stakeholders that 4 to 6 months will be necessary to integrate and streamline the process. We are targeting the completion of the pilot by the end of the 1999 federal fiscal year. If agency participation is consistent and contractor assistance is obtained the time frame for completion could be shortened.

Points of Contact: Wayne Kober - Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
(717) 787-1024
Susie Jacobs - Maryland State Highway Administration -
(410) 545-8610
Ben Hark - West Virginia Division of Highways
Ray Harbeson - Delaware Department of Transportation
(302) 760-2202
Denise M. Rigney - US EPA Region III (215)-814-2726